



State of South Carolina  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BAUER URGES SC RESIDENTS  
TO USE BEST JUDGMENT WITH FLU SHOT SHORTAGE**

(Columbia) - With the recent announcement by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that there will be a major shortage in flu vaccine this winter, Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer, as head of the state's Office on Aging, is urging all residents of South Carolina to make certain that our state's most vulnerable residents are taken care of first this flu season.

"I will gladly forego my own flu shot this year, and urge other healthy adults to do the same," Bauer said. "I realize health care employees need their shots, but other adults in good health need to understand the importance of making sure at-risk seniors, pregnant women and young children are given top priority this winter."

Lt. Governor Bauer also learned that in some communities across South Carolina, no priority was given at some sites to follow the CDC guidelines, meaning anyone with the ability to pay would be given a shot. Said Bauer, "As always, my top priority is the health and safety of our state's citizens, particularly seniors. Selfishness in this type of situation is simply unacceptable."

Additionally, Mr. Bauer has received reports of price gouging at the national level. "I will make sure that when my office hears of price gouging in South Carolina, it will be immediately reported to law enforcement authorities. I urge anyone with this kind of information to do the same," he said.

"I've been told that only one American drug manufacturer is in the business of developing a flu vaccine, due mainly to the fact that it is no longer profitable," Bauer added. "Our governments, both state and federal, need to immediately find new incentives to encourage our nation's pharmaceutical community to manufacture preventive vaccines, so that these kind of shortfalls no longer occur."

Again, DHEC is encouraging vulnerable seniors, pregnant women, young children and those who come in direct daily contact with those groups to get their shots as soon as possible. More information can be found by going to their website at [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov).